

Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2017–2018



JIM RATHERT

Wood duck

Table of Contents

Introduction to Missouri Waterfowl Hunting..... 3

Duck Status 4

Changes to Duck Zones and Season Dates 5

Rationale for Goose Regulations 6

Canada Geese in Missouri..... 7

Proper Handling of Game Birds 8

Permits and Stamps 9

Bag Limits for Ducks, Geese, and Coots..... 14

Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days 14

Light Goose Conservation Order 15

Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots 15

Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas 16

Zone Boundaries 18

Federal Regulations Summary 20

Suggested Shot Sizes for Waterfowl..... 23

When Hunting From a Boat..... 23

Waterfowl Identification 24

Conservation Department Contact Information 30

Sunrise/Sunset Table 31

2017–2018 Season DatesBack Cover

What’s New for 2017–2018?

- Season date formulas have been changed based on hunter input. See Page 5.
- Duck hunting zone boundaries have changed based on hunter input. See Page 18.
- You may now take up to two black ducks daily. (Last season’s daily bag limit allowed only one black duck.)
- Only one pintail is allowed in your daily bag limit this season. (Two pintails were allowed last season.)



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

Mallards

Introduction to Missouri Waterfowl Hunting

Missouri waterfowl hunters now have more days and places to hunt than ever before. In the past 20 years, the Conservation Department and partners have restored tens of thousands of acres of wetland habitat. Hunters can apply for reservations or try their luck in the “poor line” at 15 Conservation Department areas managed intensively for waterfowl and wetlands. For hunters willing to scout, other conservation areas with floodplain habitat provide good hunting during periods of high water. Similarly, many rivers and reservoirs offer public hunting opportunity but require more scouting to produce successful hunts. Many hunters have invested in leasing or owning private wetlands and have contributed to the restoration of more than 150,000 acres through the Wetland Reserve Easement Program. Hunters should keep in mind that waterfowl hunting in Missouri is influenced by habitat conditions, weather, and the timing of migrations more than overall duck and goose numbers. Regardless of weather and habitat conditions, hunters should take time to enjoy their outings. We are living in unprecedented times with near-record duck and goose populations, a 20-year string of 60-day duck seasons, and goose seasons lasting longer and later than we have ever seen.

Duck and Breeding Ground Status

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the 2017 duck season length and bag limit size based on duck populations and wetland conditions in the previous year. In 2016, wetland numbers in Prairie Canada and the United States were 21 percent lower than in 2015, but they still were similar to the long-term average. The 2016 near-record estimate of 48.4 million ducks was similar to 2015 and was 38 percent above the long-term average. Here are how individual species fared in 2016 compared to 2015 and their long-term averages:

- Mallard: Similar to 2015 and 51 percent above their long-term average.
- Blue-winged teal: 22 percent lower than 2015 and 34 percent above their long-term average.
- Green-winged teal: Similar to 2015 and 104 percent above their long-term average.
- Northern shoveler: Similar to 2015 and 56 percent above their long-term average.
- Gadwall: Similar to 2015 and 90 percent above their long-term average.
- American wigeon: Similar to 2015 and 31 percent above their long-term average.
- Pintail: Similar to 2015 and 34 percent below their long-term average.
- Redhead: Similar to 2015 and 82 percent above their long-term average.
- Canvasback: Similar to 2015 and 26 percent above their long-term average.
- Scaup: Similar to 2015 and to their long-term average.

MCHF Helps You Invest in Your Love for Nature

Since 1997, thanks to donations from hunters like you, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation has supported many projects and events, including youth

hunting events, blinds for hunters with disabilities, wildlife habitat improvements, and conservation education. **With your help, we can do even more.** Consider making a planned gift or other donation, or purchasing a Conservation Heritage License Plate today. You may direct your contributions to the area of conservation you care most about. For more information, visit **mochf.org** or call 800-227-1488.



Changes to Duck Zones and Season Dates

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service periodically offers states the opportunity to consider duck zone boundary changes and the use of split seasons. Last year, the Conservation Department approved changes to duck zones and season date formulas that will go into effect this hunting season.

The Department's goal was to establish zones and season dates that best accommodate various types of waterfowl hunters and their preferences. To do that, the Department reviewed responses from more than 3,500 individuals who completed the agency's 2014 Duck Hunter Opinion Survey, input from more than 500 hunters who attended one of the Department's 14 waterfowl hunter workshops, and numerous comments received from waterfowl hunters. Based on this input, season dates will be later in all three zones and the Middle and South zones will employ split seasons in which the season is open for a segment, is closed, and then is reopened for the remainder of the season. The new season date formulas are shown in the table below and the changes to duck zone boundaries are shown on Page 18. To learn more about the rationale behind these changes, visit short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4r.

Zone	Liberal (60 Days)	Moderate (45 Days)	Restrictive (30 Days)
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on first Saturday in November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on second Saturday in November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on Saturday nearest Nov. 14
Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on Saturday nearest Nov. 6 for seven days▪ Closes for five days▪ Opens again for 53 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on Saturday nearest Nov. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on Saturday nearest Nov. 19
South	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on Thanksgiving Day for four days▪ Closes (if needed to avoid an excess of 60 days)▪ Opens again and runs until last Sunday in January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on Saturday nearest Dec. 10▪ Closes Dec. 20–25▪ Opens again on Dec. 26 and runs until last Sunday in January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opens on Saturday nearest Dec. 15▪ Closes Dec. 19–25▪ Opens again on Dec. 26 and runs until Sunday nearest Jan. 20

Adaptive Harvest Management

Each year's regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of open seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days), and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to: flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management.



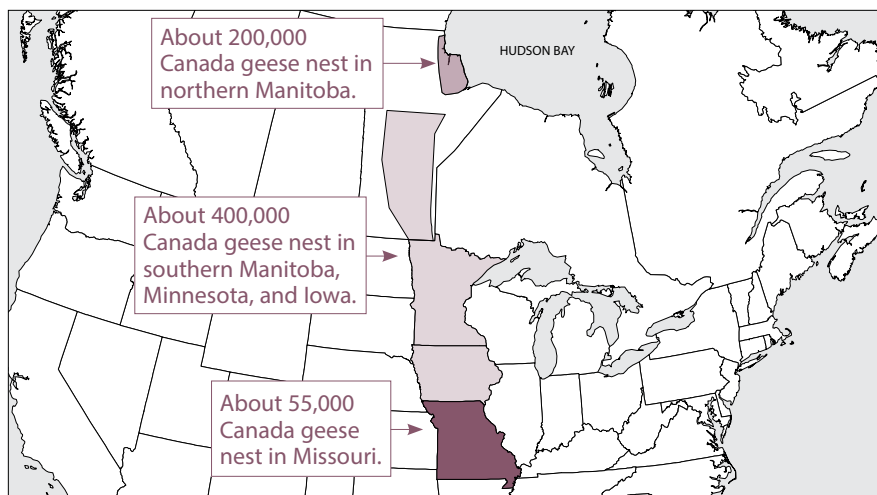
Canada geese

Rationale for Goose Regulations

Missouri's goose regulations are intended to be simple and provide ample opportunity when hunters most desire to hunt geese. Hunters can enjoy a statewide regular goose season that opens on Veterans Day and closes on Feb. 6 for all species of geese. The season is timed to provide concurrent duck and goose hunting as well as late-season goose hunting after the duck season closes. The 2017 season marks only the second time in modern history in which Missouri hunters will have the opportunity to hunt dark geese (Canada geese and white-fronted geese) in early February. Extending the season into February was in response to hunter input received through opinion surveys and direct correspondence. Hunters pursuing light geese (snow/blue geese and Ross's geese) can take advantage of more liberal hunting methods after the Conservation Order begins on Feb. 7. The nine-day early Canada goose season in October provides waterfowl hunters additional opportunity after the September teal season and before the regular waterfowl seasons begin.

Report Your Bands to reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates, and distributions for a variety of migratory game birds. To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at **reportband.gov**. You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.



Canada Geese in Missouri

Canada geese present in Missouri during the fall and winter nest in three regions:

- Along Hudson Bay in northern Manitoba.
- Southern Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa.
- Missouri.

The largest populations of nesting Canada geese that frequent Missouri during the fall and winter are from southern Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa. This region typically has a spring breeding population of more than 400,000 Canada geese. Northern Manitoba adds another 200,000 Canada geese. Missouri has a relatively small nesting population of about 55,000 Canada geese. Missouri's harvest typically comprises about 40 percent of Canada geese from southern Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa; 30 percent from Missouri; 25 percent from northern Manitoba; and 5 percent from Ontario, Wisconsin, and neighboring states. Spring flooding in northern Manitoba and Missouri likely resulted in lower production in these two regions, but this was offset by good production in southern Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Proper Handling of Game Birds

Follow these practices when handling or cleaning wild birds:

- Do not handle or eat birds that are obviously sick or birds that were found dead. Contact your local conservation agent or Conservation Department office if you find sick or dead birds. For contact information, see Page 30 of this booklet or visit **mdc.mo.gov**.
- Work in a well-ventilated area or upwind of harvested game birds to minimize exposure to airborne particles from dust, feathers, or dander.
- Wear rubber gloves when handling birds.
- Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based disinfectant and disinfect tools and equipment after handling birds.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling birds.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.
- Cook game birds to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever or other flu-like symptoms and let them know that you have had recent contact with wild birds.

Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. Although less than 2 inches long, these invasive animals:



- Disrupt native aquatic animals and communities.
- Clog the cooling systems of boat motors, causing them to overheat.
- Plug intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants.
- Ruin beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses.
- Spread quickly — a single female can produce 1 million eggs a year.

When moving from one water body to another:

- **Clean** all plants, animals, and mud from your boat, putting plants and other debris in the trash. Thoroughly wash your boat and gear in hot water, especially crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** all water from your boat, decoys, and equipment before leaving the water body.
- **Dry** your boat completely before launching it in other waters.

Report sightings to Aquatic Habitat Specialist, 412 S. Killingsworth, Bolivar, MO 65613-1872. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess, and transport ducks, coots, and geese in Missouri, except during the Light Goose Conservation Order, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners as defined in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and Federal Duck Stamp are required (see below).

2) Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older
This permit is available for \$6. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) Federal Duck Stamp is required of:

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older
Duck stamps are available online and at some U.S. Post Offices, Conservation Department Offices, and permit vendors (see Page 10 for important information regarding electronic duck stamps). To be valid, a paper duck stamp must be signed in ink across the face.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger are not required to purchase any permits in Missouri to hunt ducks, coots, or geese during the regular season or light geese during the Conservation Order, but they must:

- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education certification card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967;
- Or possess a valid hunter-education certification card.

Note: During the Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days, all youth hunters must be in the immediate presence of an adult. See Page 14.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved hunter-education course and display their certification card before purchasing any firearms hunting permits unless permits are purchased using an Apprentice Hunter Authorization (see Page 12).

Where to Purchase Permits

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online anytime at **mdc.mo.gov/permits**. Use your credit card to pay. No surcharges will be assessed. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately.
- From your smartphone using the free MO Hunting app (see Page 11). Use your credit card to pay. No surcharges will be assessed. Your permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Note: Hunting permits are no longer sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom.

Where to Purchase Duck Stamps

- Duck stamps are no longer sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom.
- Many permit vendors, such as hunting equipment retailers, no longer sell traditional (paper) duck stamps. However, all permit vendors offer electronic duck stamps (see next bullet).
- You may now buy duck stamps online at **mdc.mo.gov/permits**, from a retail permit vendor, or through the MO Hunting app (see Page 11). An electronic duck stamp (e-Stamp) will be issued to you, and a paper duck stamp will be mailed to you. The e-Stamp may be used immediately and is valid for 45 days. After 45 days, you must sign and carry the paper duck stamp that is mailed to you. The cost of an e-Stamp is \$28.50, which includes a \$3.50 handling fee. This fee is set and fully retained by the federal government. If you do not receive your paper duck stamp, please contact Amplex customer service at 800-852-4897.
- Traditional (paper) duck stamps may be purchased for \$25 at some U.S. Post Offices and some Conservation Department offices. Please contact the office before you visit to ask if duck stamps are available.

Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by duck stamp sales goes directly to purchasing or leasing wetland habitat. Since 1934, duck stamp funds have been used to acquire more than 6 million acres of wetland habitat. This habitat provides homes for countless wildlife species and places for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy.

Replacing Permits

If you lose your permit, simply download the MO Hunting app to your Android or Apple mobile device, login with your Conservation Number, and a valid, electronic version of your permit will appear on the app. Any active, valid permit can be reprinted at home for free at **mdc.mo.gov/buypermits**. Replacement permits can also be purchased from any vendor for \$2.

MDC's MO Hunting App Makes Permits Easy

The Conservation Department's free MO Hunting app offers a quick, easy, and convenient option for carrying your permits afield. The app, which is available for Apple and Android mobile devices, allows you to:

- Purchase permits and duck stamps.
- See all the hunting, fishing, and trapping permits you have purchased — even if they were purchased from a traditional vendor, online, or by telephone.
- Carry valid, electronic permits afield. **Note:** The MO Hunting app will display your purchase of a Federal Duck Stamp, but you must sign and carry a paper duck stamp afield after your 45-day e-Stamp has expired. See Page 10.

To login to MO Hunting, you'll need your Conservation Number. This nine-digit number can be found on the back of your Heritage Card or on any current or previous permit. For help locating your Conservation Number, call 573-751-4115 during regular business hours and ask for Permit Services, or go to **short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkH**.

MO Hunting is available in the Google Play and iTunes stores. You can also get MO Hunting and learn more about the app at **mdc.mo.gov/mobile/mobile-apps**.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at **short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkV**.

Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting and purchasing permits.
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; must carry orders showing such assignment while hunting and purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status, such as a student ID, while hunting.
Note: Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them from Conservation Department offices in person, by phone, or by mail.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- First purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization;
- Then purchase permits for the season they want to hunt; and
- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult who has a valid hunter-education certification card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Missouri Conservation Permit Card



Missouri hunters, anglers, and trappers now have a new way of carrying and showing proof of permits

- Choose from four nature-inspired backgrounds to personalize your permit card.
- Permit Card provides an alternative to carrying paper or electronic permits while in the field.
(Not valid for deer, turkey, White River Border Lakes, daily trout tags, reciprocal privileges with other states, and Federal Duck Stamp)
- Newly purchased permits are immediately loaded onto the card.
- Cardholders receive a 15 percent discount on merchandise sold at MDC facilities.
- Replaces the Heritage Card, which remains valid for hunter education (if applicable) and use at permit vendors.
- Cost — \$2.00 and the card does not expire.

Daily Bag Limits

See back cover for season dates and shooting hours.

Coots	15 daily and 45 in possession
Ducks 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:	
Mallards	4, but no more than 2 females
Scaup	3
Wood ducks	3
New! Black ducks	2
Canvasbacks	2
Hooded mergansers	2
Redheads	2
Mottled ducks	1
New! Pintails	1
The possession limit for ducks is 18 (three times the daily bag limit; varies by species.)	

Geese	
Snow, blue, and Ross's (all species combined)	20
Canada and brant (both species combined)	3
White-fronted.	2
The possession limits for brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese are three times the daily bag limit (varies by species). There is no possession limit for snow, blue, and Ross's geese.	

Note: Each hunter must keep his or her harvested waterfowl separate or distinctly identifiable from the harvests of other hunters.

Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days

In 2017, there are two Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days in each zone for ducks, geese, and coots. Youth hunters must be:

- Age 15 or younger;
- Accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who is not allowed to hunt ducks during Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days, but who can participate in other open seasons.

No permits are required for youth hunters. If the youth possesses a valid hunter-education certification card, the accompanying adult does not need a permit or hunter-education certification. However, if the youth is not hunter-education certified, the accompanying adult must be hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967, and the adult must possess a Missouri permit to hunt small game or be exempt.

See back cover for season dates. Shooting hours and limits are the same as during the regular duck, goose, and coot seasons.



Light Goose Conservation Order

A Light Goose Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 7–April 30, 2018. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented this Conservation Order to reduce numbers of snow (including their blue color phase) and Ross's geese because the geese have increased in number and are causing damage to the fragile Arctic tundra. During the Conservation Order there is no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older need only a Conservation Order Permit to hunt snow, blue, and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order. This permit costs \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters with a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit or a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit do not need to purchase a Conservation Order Permit. See Page 9 for permit requirements for hunters age 15 and younger.

Note: A Missouri small game hunting permit, Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Federal Duck Stamp are not required during the Conservation Order.

Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots

Season Dates and Hunting Hours:

- Sept. 9–24, 2017, statewide with hunting hours from sunrise to sunset.
- During youth and regular duck seasons (see back cover for the dates of each zone) with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Feb. 10–March 10, 2018, statewide with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

The **daily bag limit** shall not exceed 3 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate. The **possession limit** shall not exceed 9 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate.

Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 15 conservation areas, which are listed on pages 18 and 19. Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from boat blinds. Most have disabled-accessible blinds. There are four ways to obtain a hunting spot on a managed waterfowl-hunting area:

- Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation at 12 conservation areas. A reservation guarantees successful applicants a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area. Applications are accepted from Sept. 1–18.
- Missouri residents may use the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass, and Otter Slough. Quick Draw provides hunters the option of applying twice a week, once for hunts occurring Friday through Monday, and once for hunts occurring Tuesday through Thursday. Quick Draw begins accepting applications a week before the opening of waterfowl season. Hunters who apply and are drawn using Quick Draw receive a guaranteed position in line for their hunt. To learn more, visit **mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw**.
- Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder or a successful Quick Draw applicant. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl-hunting area and draw for a spot in the morning drawing or “poor line.” Twenty-five percent of the positions at Quick Draw areas and 50 percent of the positions at the other 12 areas are set aside for daily poor-line drawings. Many positions from reservation holders and Quick Draw hunters who do not show up are also included in the poor-line drawing.

To view a series of videos that offer additional details about these procedures, visit **short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4n**.

Hunters may reserve disabled-accessible blinds using the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass, and Otter Slough. On all other areas, hunters must call the area or the area’s designated ADA phone number (see phone numbers on Page 19) to reserve a disabled-accessible blind. When arriving at an area to claim a blind, hunters must show a Hunting Method Exemption or Department of Revenue hangtag. For additional information, visit **short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4e**.

Online Hunting Reports

For hunting reports that are updated twice a week, results of waterfowl counts conducted every other week, and a wealth of other information about waterfowl hunting in Missouri, go to **short.mdc.mo.gov/ZoJ**.



How the Morning Drawing Works

Hunters who are using the poor line to draw for a hunting spot will use the “Every Member Draws” (EMD) procedure at seven managed waterfowl-hunting areas (see map on Page 18). At EMD areas, every person in a hunting party draws a numbered block or “pill.” The party uses its lowest number to determine its place in line to pick a hunting spot. On highly used waterfowl areas, the EMD system puts more hunters in the marsh by creating an incentive for hunters to team up with family and friends instead of hunting alone.

Areas not using EMD use the “One Member Draws” (OMD) procedure. At OMD areas, one member from each hunting party pulls a pill to determine the hunting party’s place in line. Areas that use OMD generally turn fewer hunters away and would not benefit from EMD.

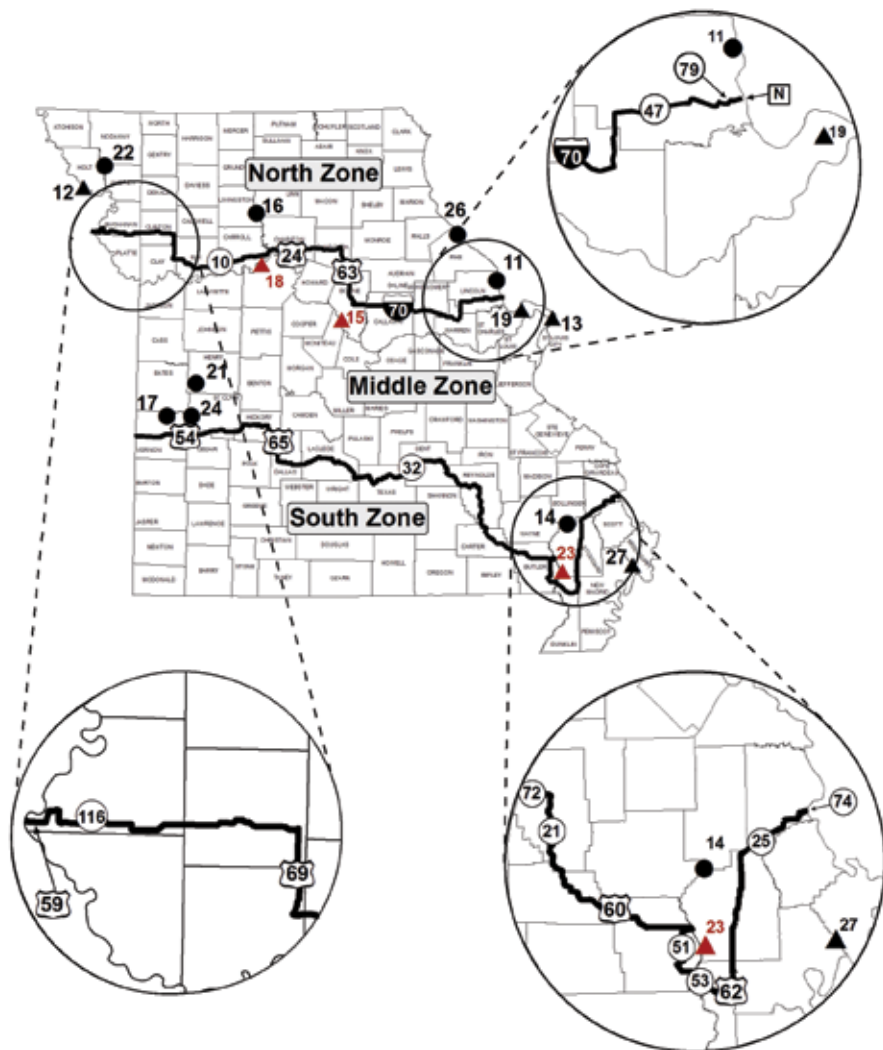
After the pills are drawn, the lowest number gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting spots are assigned. On some days, there may be more hunters than hunting locations, so it’s possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

Conservation Department Evaluates Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Program

The Conservation Department is evaluating Quick Draw, Every Member Draws, and other elements of the waterfowl hunting program. A key component of this evaluation will be listening to hunters to find out what changes are needed, if any. Hunter input will be gathered through opinion surveys and dialogue with hunters who attend morning drawings at waterfowl-hunting areas this fall. Any proposed changes will be presented for review at open houses at the conclusion of the waterfowl seasons. Watch for opinion survey results and information about upcoming open houses at mdc.mo.gov.

Hunting Zones and Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

For a listing of the roads that define zone boundaries, see the migratory game birds and waterfowl section in Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* at sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.



- ▲ Every member in the party draws for a hunting spot. See Page 17.
- One member of the party draws for a hunting spot. See Page 17.

Areas denoted in red use Quick Draw (mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw).

- 11 B. K. Leach CA** (4,307 acres; Lincoln County) 573-898-5905. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (636-441-4554); boats provided where needed; 1 p.m. closure. Drawing held at Kings Lake Tract off Norton Woods Road.
- 12 Bob Brown CA ▲** (3,307 acres; Holt County) 660-446-2694. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 13 Columbia Bottom CA ▲** (4,318 acres; St. Louis County) 314-877-6014. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 14 Duck Creek CA** (6,318 acres; Bollinger, Stoddard, and Wayne counties) 573-222-3337. Walk-in hunting; water blinds in timber pools; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for timber blinds only; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Water availability may cause a delay in flooding Timber Pools 2, 3, and 8.
- 15 Eagle Bluffs CA ▲** (4,428 acres; Boone County) 573-445-3882. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 2 ADA blinds; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 16 Fountain Grove CA** (7,983 acres; Linn and Livingston counties) 660-938-4124. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (660-646-6122); boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 17 Four Rivers CA** (13,929 acres; Vernon and Bates counties) 417-395-2341. Units 1 and 2 have 8 shooting pools. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps in most pools; camping; open all day.
- 18 Grand Pass CA ▲** (5,301 acres; Saline County) 660-595-2444. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 19 Marais Temps Clair CA ▲** (918 acres; St. Charles County) 314-877-6014. Open to waterfowl hunting Friday–Monday only. Walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; 1 p.m. closure.
- 21 Montrose CA** (2,750 acres; Henry County) 660-693-4666. Water blinds; walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; boat ramp; camping; open all day.
- 22 Nodaway Valley CA** (3,881 acres; Holt and Andrew counties) 660-446-3371. Walk-in hunting; 4 water blinds; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramps in most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure on west side; all-day hunting on east side.
- 23 Otter Slough CA ▲** (4,866 acres; Stoddard County) 573-624-5821. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; water blinds; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 24 Schell-Osage CA** (8,633 acres; Vernon and St. Clair counties) 417-432-3414. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 2 ADA blinds; field hunting for geese; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 26 Ted Shanks CA** (6,705 acres; Pike County) 573-248-2530. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 27 Ten Mile Pond CA ▲** (3,755 acres; Mississippi County) 573-649-2770. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; boat ramp; open all day.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit ecfr.gov, where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys. All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- By the aid of baiting (placing grain, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or attraction), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of bait. The following do not constitute baited areas or baiting: standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; lands where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice; hunting from a blind or other place of concealment that is camouflaged with natural veg-

etation or vegetation from agricultural crops as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing or scattering of grain. Normal agricultural practices must be conducted in accordance with recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Cooperative Extension Service. A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing a crop. Waterfowl may not be hunted over freshly planted wildlife food plots where grain or seed has been distributed, scattered, or exposed because these plots are not normal agricultural plantings or normal soil stabilization practices.

WANTON WASTE: No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

OPENING DAY OF A SEASON: No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION: Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a com-

mon carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: No person may receive, possess, or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were taken.

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER: No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

NONTOXIC SHOT: Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of June 2017, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Bismuth-tin | ■ Tungsten-iron-polymer |
| ■ Copper-clad iron | ■ Tungsten-matrix |
| ■ Iron (steel) | ■ Tungsten-polymer |
| ■ Iron-tungsten | ■ Tungsten-tin-bismuth |
| ■ Iron-tungsten-nickel | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron |
| ■ Tungsten-bronze (two types) | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel |
| ■ Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel | |

Suggested Shot Size Selection for Waterfowl

Waterfowl species	Minimum	Typical hunting conditions	Minimum desired pattern density (hits/30" circle)
Small/medium ducks	6 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3–4 steel 4–6 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	120
Large ducks	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	2–3 steel 4 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	90
Small geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1–BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
Large geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB–BBB steel 1–BB bismuth 2–BB tungsten alloy	50

Close range is less than 35 yards; all shots should be limited to less than 45 yards. Velocity on all loads should be a minimum of 1,225 FPS.

When Hunting From a Boat

Boating safety is an important aspect of duck hunting, especially in the frigid weather often encountered during waterfowl season. Follow these practices to ensure your hunt doesn't end in tragedy.

- When using a boat with a motor, including a layout boat, special state statutes apply. See mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/WaterPatrol.
- Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- Check the weather forecast. High winds can be dangerous.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- Transport firearms unloaded, cased, and with the action open.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.
- Exercise additional caution when boating through flood waters.

If your boat swamps or capsizes:

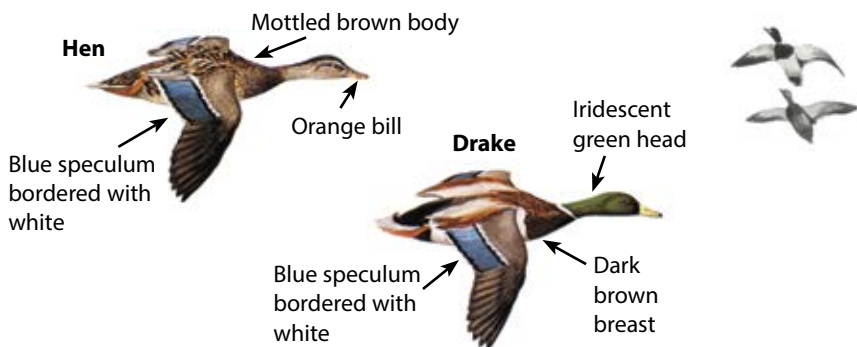
- Stay with the boat, and use distress signals.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.
- To stay afloat, place oars under your knees and behind your back.
- If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

Duck Identification

The daily bag limit is 6 ducks with the following species restrictions:

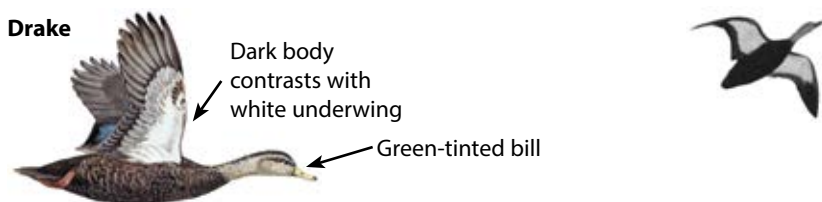
Mallard ■ 4 in the daily bag, but only 2 hens

Mallards, or “greenheads,” are Missouri’s most common duck. Hens have a loud *quack*; drakes give a lower-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



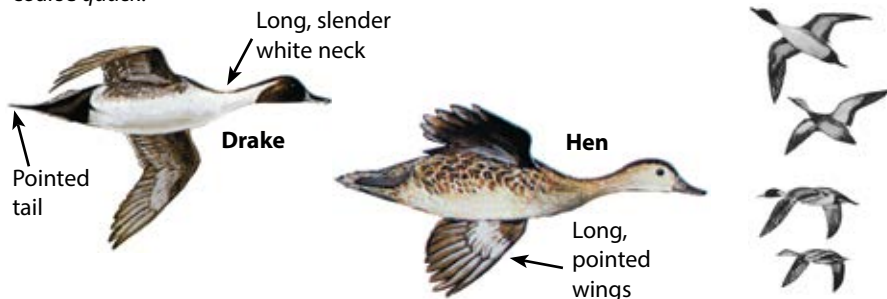
American Black Duck ■ 2 in the daily bag

Male and female black ducks are similar in size, flight, voice, and coloration to mallard hens. To avoid confusion, look for the white underwing and the green-tinted bill.



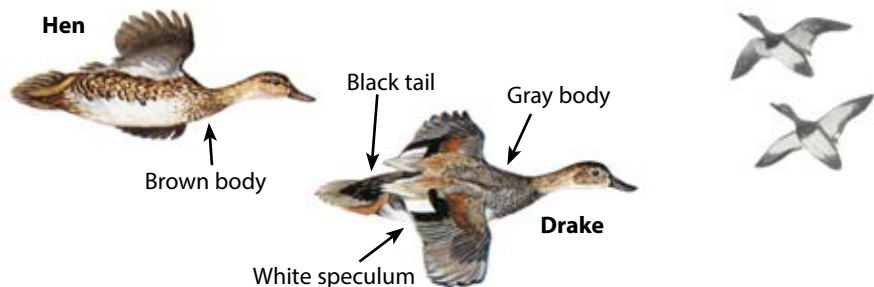
Northern Pintail ■ 1 in the daily bag

These slender ducks fly fast and often zigzag from great heights before leveling off to land. They may be seen in flocks with mallards. Drakes whistle; hens give a coarse *quack*.



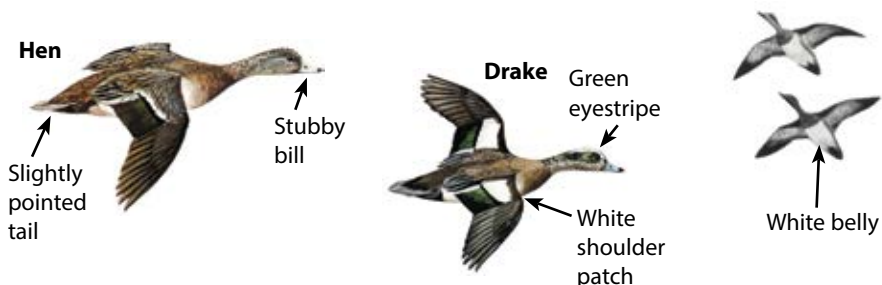
Gadwall ■ 6 in the daily bag

These early migrants fly in small, compact flocks. They are the only dabbling duck with a white speculum. Note, however, that wigeon drakes have white shoulder patches.



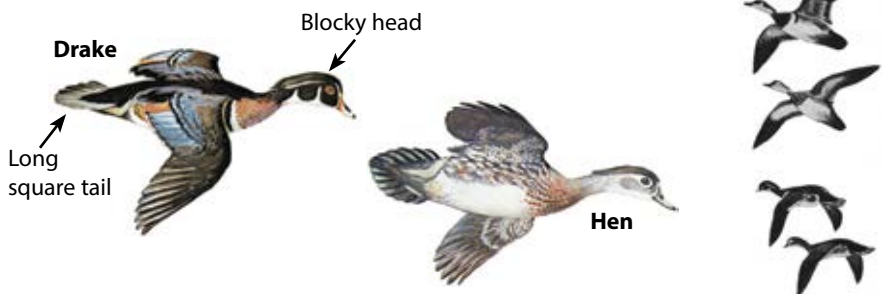
American Wigeon ■ 6 in the daily bag

The green eyestripe and white belly and shoulder patch helps identify wigeon drakes. Hens are generally brown. Both sexes have stubby bills and slightly pointed tails.



Wood Duck ■ 3 in the daily bag

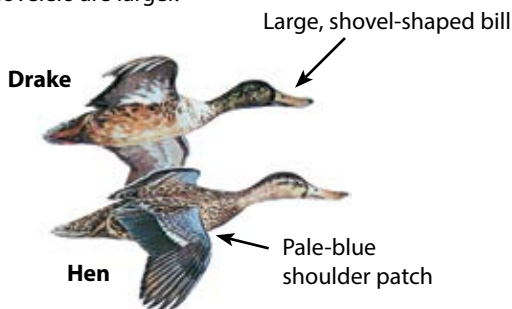
The drake wood duck is Missouri's most colorful duck. While flying, their wings make a rustling, swishing sound. Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often in flight; hens give a wailing *cr-r-ekk* when frightened.



Duck Identification

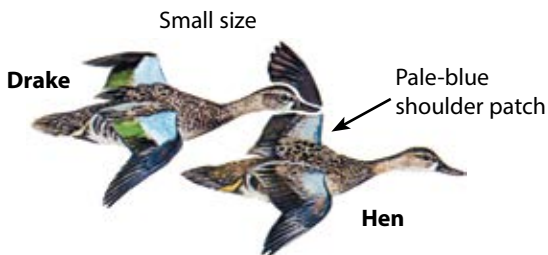
Northern Shoveler ■ 6 in the daily bag

The large spoon-shaped bill helps identify this duck. Shovelers often form mixed flocks with blue-winged teal. Both species have pale-blue shoulder patches, but shovelers are larger.



Blue-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

These swift-flying early migrants are normally far south of Missouri by the time the regular waterfowl season opens. However, a few stragglers may show up throughout the fall.



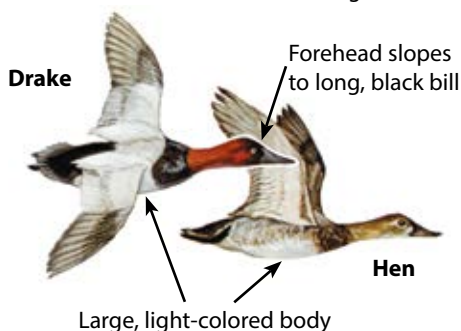
Green-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight, and iridescent-green wing patches help identify these ducks.



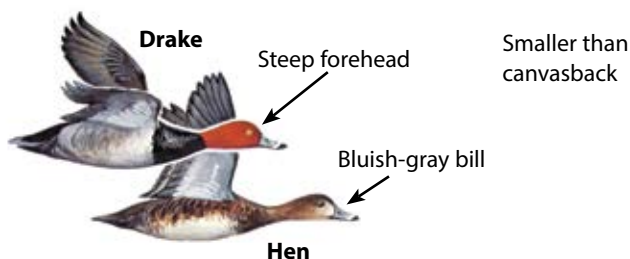
Canvasback ■ 2 in the daily bag

Canvasbacks have a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The bill, lighter coloration, and large size distinguish this duck from the similar-looking redhead.



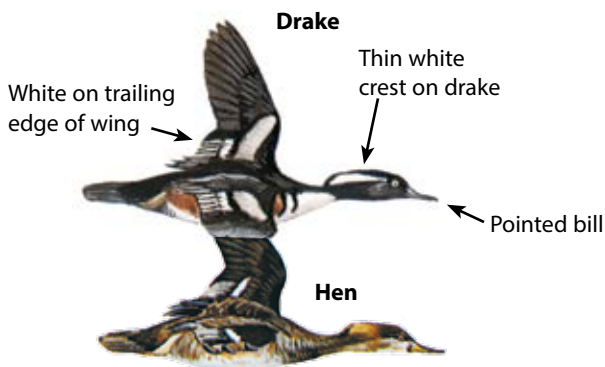
Redhead ■ 2 in the daily bag

Redheads are most often confused with canvasbacks, but in flight they also look similar to ringnecks and scaup. Note the steep forehead and short, bluish-gray bill.



Hooded Merganser ■ 2 in the daily bag

The rapid wing strokes of hooded mergansers give the impression of great speed. Mergansers are often seen in pairs or very small flocks.



Duck Identification

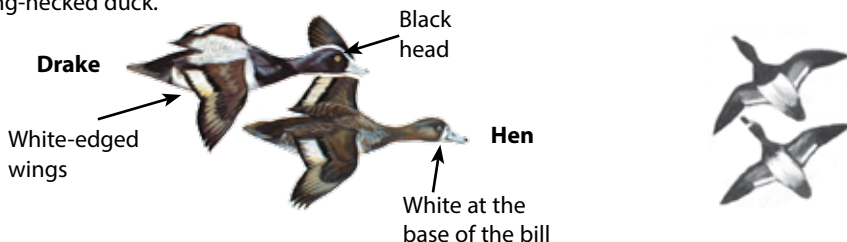
Ring-Necked Duck (Ringneck) ■ 6 in the daily bag

This diver can be confused with scaup and redheads. In flight, the dark wings of ringnecks are different from the white-edged wings of scaup. The bold white ring at the tip of the bill is usually conspicuous.



Greater and Lesser Scaup ■ 3 in the daily bag

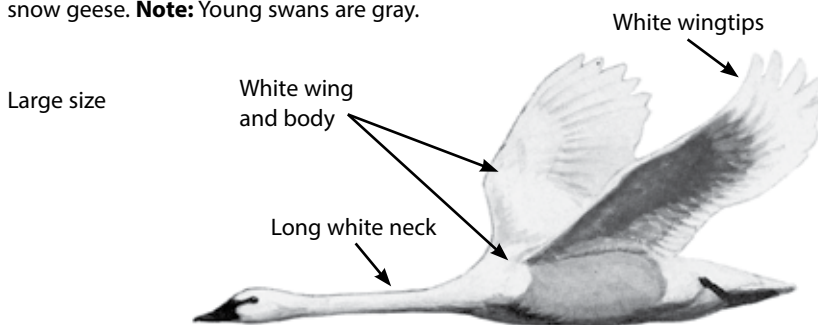
Except for the wings, greater and lesser scaup appear almost identical in the field. The white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the wing tip in greater scaup, but only halfway in the lesser. Do not confuse scaup with the similar-looking ring-necked duck.



Trumpeter Swan

Trumpeter swans are protected by federal and state laws and may not be shot!

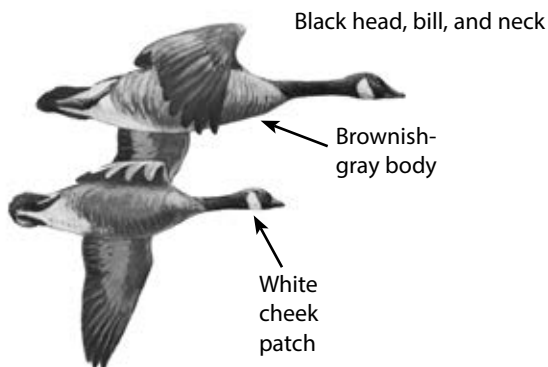
Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese. **Note:** Young swans are gray.



Goose Identification

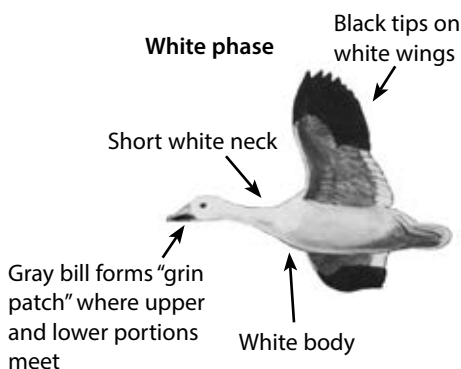
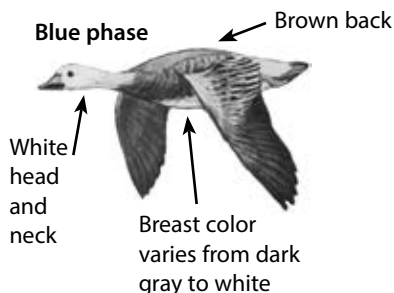
Canada Goose ■ 3 in the daily bag

Canada geese are often called “honkers” because of their distinctive call. The black head and neck, white cheek patch, and brownish-gray body are distinctive.



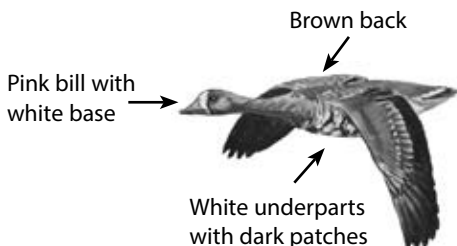
Snow Goose and Ross's Goose ■ 20 in the daily bag

Snow geese have two color phases: white and blue. Ross's geese appear nearly identical to snow geese, but have a shorter bill with no “grin patch.”



White-Fronted Goose ■ 2 in the daily bag

White-fronted geese, or “speckle-bellies,” fly in V-shaped flocks. Their call is a laugh-like series of high-pitched paired notes. **Note:** Immature white-fronted geese and immature snow geese appear similar. Immature white-fronted geese have pink bills, orange legs, and black tails. Immature snow geese have gray bills, gray legs, and white tails.





Director,
Department of Conservation
 Sara Parker Pauley

The Conservation Commission

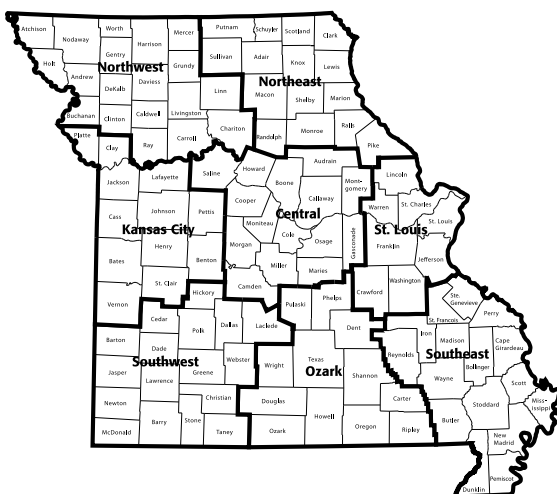
Don C. Bedell
 James T. Blair, IV
 Marilynn J. Bradford
 David W. Murphy

**Missouri Department of
 Conservation**
 PO Box 180
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
 573-751-4115

mdc.mo.gov

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Contact Information



Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64082
 816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 636-441-4554

Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

Central Standard Time

DAY	OCT. 2017		NOV. 2017		DEC. 2017		JAN. 2018		FEB. 2018	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	7:05	6:51	7:36	6:08	7:08	4:48	7:26	4:59	7:14	5:31
2	7:06	6:50	7:37	6:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	4:59	7:13	5:32
3	7:07	6:48	7:38	6:06	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:00	7:12	5:33
4	7:08	6:46	7:39	6:05	7:11	4:48	7:27	5:01	7:11	5:34
5	7:09	6:45	6:40	5:04	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:02	7:10	5:35
6	7:09	6:43	6:41	5:03	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:03	7:09	5:37
7	7:10	6:42	6:42	5:02	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:04		
8	7:11	6:40	6:43	5:01	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:05		
9	7:12	6:39	6:44	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06		
10	7:13	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07		
11	7:14	6:36	6:47	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:08		
12	7:15	6:34	6:48	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:09		
13	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:10		
14	7:17	6:32	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:48	7:25	5:11		
15	7:18	6:30	6:51	4:55	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:12		
16	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:13		
17	7:20	6:27	6:53	4:54	7:21	4:49	7:24	5:14		
18	7:21	6:26	6:54	4:53	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15		
19	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16		
20	7:23	6:23	6:56	4:52	7:22	4:51	7:23	5:17		
21	7:24	6:22	6:58	4:52	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:18		
22	7:25	6:21	6:59	4:51	7:23	4:52	7:22	5:19		
23	7:26	6:19	7:00	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:21		
24	7:27	6:18	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:22		
25	7:28	6:17	7:02	4:50	7:25	4:53	7:20	5:23		
26	7:29	6:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24		
27	7:30	6:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:25		
28	7:31	6:13	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:55	7:18	5:26		
29	7:33	6:12	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27		
30	7:34	6:11	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:29		
31	7:35	6:10			7:26	4:58	7:15	5:30		

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Oct. 1 to Nov. 4 have been converted to daylight saving time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astromical-applications.

2017–2018 Waterfowl Seasons

Zone	Youth Hunt	Ducks and Coots	Early Canada Geese and Brant	Canada Geese, Brant, White-Fronted Geese, Snow Geese, and Ross's Geese
North	Oct. 28–29	Nov. 4–Jan. 2	Oct. 7–15	Nov. 11–Feb. 6
Middle	Oct. 28–29	Nov. 4–10 and Nov. 16–Jan. 7		
South	Nov. 18–19	Nov. 23–26 and Dec. 4–Jan. 28		

The **Light Goose Conservation Order** will be in effect from **Feb. 7 through April 30, 2018**, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt.

See Page 15 for details.

Shooting Hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Daily Bag Limits

Coots

15 coots daily

Ducks

6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

4 mallards

(no more than 2 females)

3 scaup

3 wood ducks

New! 2 black ducks

2 canvasbacks

2 hooded mergansers

2 redheads

1 mottled duck

New! 1 pintail

Geese

20 light geese

3 Canada geese and brant
(combined total of both species)

2 white-fronted geese



For permit information, see pages 9–13.

Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit for ducks, coots, brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese. Light geese have no possession limit.